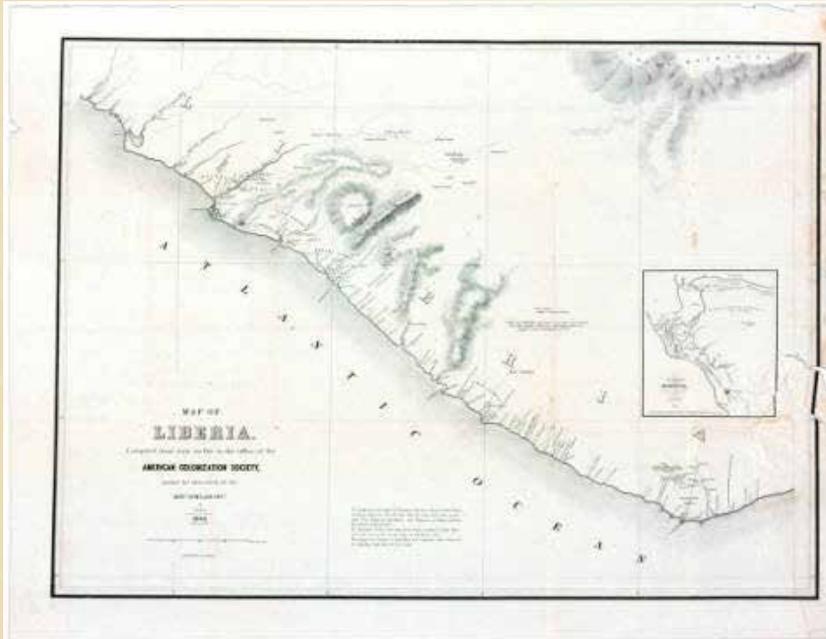


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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY



Kentucky Historical Society collections

Kentuckian Henry Clay was an early supporter of the ACS and helped establish the American colony of Liberia in Western Africa. Clay argued that African Americans would never be fully integrated into American society because of white racism and should colonize their own country in Africa.

Beginning in 1821, ACS helped move thousands of African Americans to Liberia by purchasing their freedom or paying for transportation to the new colony. In 1847, the country declared its independence and established a constitutional government modeled after that of the United States. The map above, from 1845, shows Liberia's land holdings and its capital, Monrovia, at the time.

The American Colonization Society (ACS) formed in 1816 as an organization to move freedman and manumitted slaves to Africa. The ACS believed that freed African Americans would have more freedom and respect if they were returned to their home continent than if they remained in the United States. Although billed as an abolitionist network, the ACS actually attempted to remove African Americans from the United States to "ease" race relations.

Kentuckian Henry Clay was an

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
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